

# U.S EPA FACT SHEET

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## Los Angeles County Lead Attainment Plan - Proposed Approval

November 26, 2013

### Summary

- EPA is proposing to approve the lead (Pb) air quality plan for the South Coast area in California. This plan, known as a State Implementation Plans (SIP), is the roadmap to meeting the 2008 lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 0.15 ug/m<sup>3</sup> by December 31, 2015. The NAAQS are set by the U.S. EPA to protect public health.
- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has adopted and implemented rules that will continue to control lead emissions.
- This proposed action will be published in the Federal Register and will include a 30-day public comment period from the date of publication. EPA's Federal Register notice and technical support document contain detailed information on our proposed action.

### Background

- EPA first established a lead standard in 1978 at 1.5 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Based on new health and scientific data, EPA revised the federal lead standard to 0.15 ug/m<sup>3</sup> on October 15, 2008.
- Primary sources of lead are generally large industrial sources, including metals processing, particularly primary and secondary lead smelters. Lead can also be emitted by iron and steel foundries and primary and secondary copper smelters.
- The SCAQMD has been authorized by EPA to implement the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), including the federal air quality standard for lead.
- In 2010, a portion of Los Angeles County was designated as not attaining the NAAQS of 0.15 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. SCAQMD identified two large lead-acid battery recycling facilities as possible sources of lead. One of the facilities was the main contributor to the area's nonattainment status.
- In response to the nonattainment designation, the State submitted the *Final 2012 Lead State Implementation Plan – Los Angeles County* to EPA on June 20, 2012. The plan outlines steps that will bring the area into attainment with the standard.
- The emission reductions needed to demonstrate attainment of the lead standard have already been adopted by the South Coast Air Management District. SCAQMD Rule 1420.1 establishes controls that are significantly more stringent for lead air emissions from large lead-acid battery recycling facilities than other local, state or federal rules.
- EPA approved South Coast Rule 1420.1 into the California SIP in January of 2013, which makes the rule federally enforceable.

### Next Steps

- EPA is providing a 30-day public comment period on its proposed action.

**For More Information:** <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>